



Letters About Forgiving Others

Lesson Aim: To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5

What He Has Done: God led Paul to write about forgiving others.

Key Verse: Colossians 3:13

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Genesis 50:19-21

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
22	Letters About Love, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 John 4:11-12	God led Paul and John to write about love.	To understand the characteristics of love such as not envying, boasting, or being proud.
23	Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27	God led Paul to write about unity.	To learn the body of Christ is made of different parts uniting to serve and point others to Jesus.
24	Letters About Forgiveness of Sin, Romans 3:23; 5:1, 8; 6:23; Galatians 5:22-23	God led Paul to write about Jesus saving us from sin.	To know we are all sinners who receive God's forgiveness through Jesus.
25	Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.
26	Letters About Peace, Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about peace of mind.	To know God can give us peace of mind in all circumstances.
27	Letters About Perseverance, Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16, 20-21	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus.	To learn that focusing on Christ helps us to persevere.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Luke 6:35-42. Please join us in praying, "Lord, thank You for the great sacrifice You made to save us and secure the forgiveness of all our sins. Help the children forgive others as You have forgiven them. Amen."

Teacher Tip: For Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6), place your Bible in a mailbag along with any supplies needed for THE WAY, as a visual reminder of the letters of the New Testament.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Lots Of Forgiveness	Non-helium balloons
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "The New Testament Overture" "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "I Love You, Lord" "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:14-15	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 25 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	New Testament Letters: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, highlighters, blank paper, pebble, tape
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		Christ Connection: Genesis 50:19-21	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards and cross stamps or stickers (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Hearts of Forgiveness	Any heart-shaped snack
	Up to 10	Game: Goodbye Grumpy Grudge	Dry erase board, eraser, and markers (or large paper, eraser, and a pencil)
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Delivering God's Love	See craft for supply list.
	Up to 10	Discussion: More Letters About Forgiving Others	Bible
	Up to 10	Game: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture" song, Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Ask, Seek, Knock!	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Race to Repeat	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible
	Up to 5	New Testament Letters Review	New Testament Letter themes printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite number?

GAME: LOTS OF FORGIVENESS

Purpose: Children tap the balloon 77 times to remember Jesus said to forgive 77 times.

Supplies: Non-helium balloons

Prepare: Inflate one balloon for each team.

Today, we will be learning about forgiving others. Forgiving others is very important to Jesus. One day Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." In this game, we will remember what Jesus said as we race to see which team can be the first to tap the balloon up into the air 77 times!

Directions:

1. Divide children into teams of equal size (2-5 players per team).
2. Each team stands in a circle. Give one child on each team a balloon.
3. Explain the rules to the children.
 - Every team member must tap the balloon once before anyone takes another turn.
 - If the balloon touches the ground or if a team member taps the balloon out of turn, give the balloon to the child who is holding the balloon right now. He or she is to tap the balloon back into the air. Continue counting from where you left off.
4. On your signal, all the teams count aloud as they race to tap their balloon 77 times.
5. The goal is to be the first team to count to 77. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.

Teacher Tips: To make the game more difficult, have team count from 1 again if the balloon touches the ground or if a team member taps the balloon out of turn. This game can be adapted to be played outside by teams kicking a ball to each other 77 times.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the Spirit who guides us to forgive others. Forgiveness is very important to Jesus. He gave His life so we could be forgiven. Jesus tells us to forgive others. When we forgive others, we are obeying Jesus. Obeying Him is a great way to worship. Another way to worship is with our offerings. Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while collecting the offering.



Read Matthew 6:14-15. Jesus says if we do not forgive others, God the Father will not forgive us. Sometimes forgiving others is difficult for us. We can ask God to help us forgive others, and He will do it!



Sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on forgiving others.



Perform Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 25.



Letters about forgiving others

THE WORD

Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY: Place the teacher's Bible, highlighters, blank paper, pebble, and tape in a mailbag.

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we read letters about God's forgiveness of our sin. Jesus gave His life so we could be forgiven of our sins. Today, we have letters about us forgiving others. We will learn how we are to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us. Jesus says if we do not forgive others, God the Father will not forgive us.

Let's see what Paul says about that in letters he wrote to the churches in Corinth and Colosse (or Colossae). If a map is available, point to the ancient city of Corinth, Greece and the ancient city of Colosse located in modern day Turkey. **This mailbag reminds us that in Bible times believers traveled long distances to share letters from Paul.** Open the mailbag and remove the teacher's Bible and highlighters.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5. **We will begin with Colossians 3:12-13. Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Colossians 3:13.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated. Let's read what Paul wrote to the people of Colosse about forgiving others. Paul uses the word grievance which means something someone has done that has upset you.** Read Colossians 3:12-13.

We are to forgive others as Jesus forgave us. He forgave us in His perfect love. Let's see how Paul describes that kind of forgiveness in his first letter to the people of Corinth. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5.



Forgive others **THE WAY**

If you met someone who didn't know what it meant to forgive, how would you describe it? (Children respond.) **Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we have done and the right things we have left undone (things we should have done, but did not). Has a friend or family member ever forgiven you for something you did wrong?** (Children respond.) **How did you feel to know that person had forgiven you?** (Children respond.) **Have you ever forgiven someone for something he or she did to you?** (Children respond.) **Have you ever forgiven someone for something he or she would not do for you?** (Children respond.)

What does it mean to hold a grudge against someone? (Children respond.) **Paul describes it as keeping a record of wrongs.** Remove the blank paper, pebble, and tape from the mailbag. Fold the paper into a paper airplane or have a child fold it. **This paper airplane stands for your life. Let's think of this pebble as a grudge. When you do not forgive someone, it is as if you are carrying a heavy rock with you wherever you go.** Tape the pebble onto the paper airplane. Attempt to fly the weighted paper airplane across the room. **When we do not forgive someone, the grudge we hold weighs us down and keeps us from being all God wants us to be. When we hold a grudge, we are hurting ourselves.**

Jesus does not hold grudges and He does not want us to hold grudges. With what does Paul tell us to clothe ourselves as God's people? (Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.) **How might these things help us to forgive others?** (Children respond.) **Has forgiving someone ever been very hard for you?** (Children respond.) **If you ask God to help you forgive others, He will do it!**

Close your eyes and let's take seven seconds of silence. Ask God to remind you of anyone you have not yet forgiven. Pause for 7 seconds of silent prayer. **Now, let's ask God to fill us with His Spirit so we can forgive each person who has wronged us, even if they have never said they were sorry.** Lead a brief prayer asking for God's help in forgiving others.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

More than 1000 years before Paul wrote to Corinth and Colosse about forgiving others, Jacob's son Joseph forgave his brothers for trying to harm him and selling him into slavery.



FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Genesis 50:19-21. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Genesis 50:19-21.

It is hard to forgive when someone has hurt us on purpose. It is even harder to then treat that person with kindness. That's what Joseph did. Not only did he forgive his brothers, he reassured them and spoke to them with kindness. Have you ever treated someone with kindness, even though they had hurt you on purpose? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard with a stamp (or sticker) of a cross to remind you of forgiveness. Forgive others in the same way Jesus has forgiven you. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. **On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible.** The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way. Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 25 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: HEARTS OF FORGIVENESS

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while talking about times they have shown forgiveness to others.

Snack Suggestion: Any heart-shaped snack

What do you think this heart-shaped snack has to do with forgiving others? (Children respond.) **What does it have to do with God forgiving us?** (Children respond.) **God forgives us even though we do not deserve it because He loves us. He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to give His life for us, so all who believe in Him could be forgiven.**

We are to forgive others even when they do not deserve to be forgiven and do not say they are sorry. You are showing others the love of God when you forgive them. What are some ways you can show others you have forgiven them? (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you had to forgive someone?"**

GAME: GOODBYE GRUMPY GRUDGE

Purpose: For children to remember how forgiving others causes our anger toward them to disappear.

Supplies: Dry erase board, eraser, and markers (or large paper, eraser, and a pencil)

I am going to draw a picture of a child who is staying angry at someone who has wronged him (or her). That is called holding a grudge. In this game, you will guess the letters in the word or phrase of the wrongdoing that needs to be forgiven.

Directions:

1. Draw a simple stick figure representing a grumpy child. Include many details such as a frown, hair, eyes, ears, nose, hands, and feet.
2. Choose a word or phrase from the list below or from your own list. Do not reveal the word to the children.
Wrongdoings: Hitting, stealing, being mean, cheating, gossiping, lying, hurting
3. Beneath the picture, draw one dash for every letter of the word or phrase you chose. Leave a space between words in a phrase.
4. Children take turns guessing letters.
 - If they guess a letter that is in the word or phrase, fill the letter in everywhere it appears on the appropriate dash (or dashes).
 - If they guess a letter that is not in the word or phrase, erase one body part or feature on the grumpy child.
5. The round is over when the children guess the word or phrase or the picture of the grumpy child disappears.
6. **When we forgive others for wrongdoing, our anger toward them will disappear!**
7. Play again, choosing another word or phrase, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—DELIVERING GOD’S LOVE

Purpose: For children to show God’s love by giving a care package that relays God’s love to others.

Supplies: Box, craft supplies needed for the gift you choose to create

Prepare: Choose a person or group of people to whom the children will send the care package. Some examples: nursing home residents, home-bound persons, hospital patients, grieving families, college students far from home, homeless families, etc. Before class, choose a craft for students to create to show God’s love to the recipient(s) or gather supplies and allow them to choose what craft they will make with the supplies you provide. Some ideas are: Bible bookmarks; cards; decorate plastic bags or gift wrap and enclose a tasty treat; bake and decorate cookies; booklets filled with Bible verses about love; decorate socks; shirts; or blankets with fabric paint; paint, color, or draw pictures. In addition to the gift, make a card with a message encouraging the recipient(s) and telling them God loves them. You may choose to include printed Bible verses, such as Psalm 86:15, John 3:16, or Romans 8:39.

Teacher Tips: You may choose to let the children suggest and/or decide on the recipient(s). If you have a large class, divide the children into teams and create multiple care packages for different recipients. Have each team talk about why they chose that particular recipient. If possible, take children with you to deliver the care package or take a picture to share with the children.

Today, we learned what some of the New Testament letters say about forgiving others. When we forgive others as God has forgiven us, it shows them God’s love. We can help connect people around us with God’s love by sharing it with them!

For the next few meetings, we will care for others by making care packages we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make a package to connect other people with God’s love. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the children. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

Directions:

1. Tell children what craft they will be making or help them decide what to make to show God’s love to the recipient(s).
2. Create and deliver the gifts!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT FORGIVING OTHERS

Purpose: Children learn of a third letter about forgiving others from the New Testament.

Supplies: Bible

Let's read another letter about forgiving others. This one was written by Paul to a man named Titus. Read Titus 3:4-5.

Did Jesus die on the cross because we all told Him how sorry we were for our sins? (No.) Did He die on the cross because we showed Him we would never sin again? (No.) Jesus died for us because He is kind and loving. We did not do anything to earn His forgiveness, but He gave His life so we could be forgiven.

Have you ever forgiven someone even though they never said they were sorry? (Children respond.) Have you ever forgiven someone even though you knew they would hurt you again? (Children respond.) That kind of forgiveness comes from God's kindness. God is loving and kind to us even when we do not deserve it; that is called mercy.

Has someone ever done something or said something to you that is very hard to forgive? (Children respond.) Let's pray together that God would give you the love and kindness you need to be able to truly forgive that person—even if he or she is not sorry!

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Children learn the books of the New Testament.

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture," Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each New Testament book on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so children can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" two times. Encourage the children to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the children to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the children, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge children to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

GAME: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song

Our Bible Memory Verse is the words of Jesus encouraging us to keep praying because God is good and He answers our prayers. What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Children respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Children respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. You can use the word "ASK" to help you remember our Bible Memory Verse:

A stands for "Ask and it will be given to you."

S stands for "Seek and you will find."

K stands for "Knock and the door will be opened to you."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Lead the children in reciting or singing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.
3. **Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by going around the circle and each saying the next word in the verse. I will start.**
4. Say the first word of the verse, "Ask."
5. The child on your left says the next word, "and."
6. Continue around the circle until the entire verse is said.
7. As time allows, play again. Challenge the children to recite the verse faster each time.

Option: For older children, use a timer or clock to see how quickly the verse is completed each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

Directions:

1. Practice saying the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse together once.
2. Divide the children into two equal teams.
3. Arrange the teams into two parallel lines about 15 - 20 feet from each other, facing each other.
4. Assign each team member with a number, so that each team has a player 1, 2, 3, and so on.
5. Place a Bible in the center of the play area between the two teams.
6. Call out a number.
7. The children from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
8. The child who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow children to use the Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible as a reference.)
9. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Lessons 22-31 explore several of the themes of the New Testament letters. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Unity (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Paul and Peter wrote about unity in the body of Christ. What does the phrase "body of Christ" mean? (All who believe in Jesus and belong to Him.) Why do you think unity is so important for the body of Christ? (Children respond.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Forgiveness of Sin (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Paul, John and James each wrote letters about God's forgiveness of our sin. What did God do for us so that we could be forgiven? (He sent His Son Jesus to pay the punishment for our sin.) Who does God forgive? (All who believe in Jesus.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Forgiving Others (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Paul wrote many letters about forgiving others. What does it mean to hold a grudge? (Children respond.) What are some of the attitudes Paul listed when he wrote about forgiving others? (Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.)

How to create a display for reviewing the New Testament Letters:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each New Testament Letters scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

New Testament Letters (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.): Letters about Love > Letters about Unity > Letters about Forgiveness of Sin > Letters about Forgiving Others > Letters about Peace > Letters about Perseverance > Letters about Weakness > Letters about Strength > Letters to the Seven Churches > Letters about Jesus' Return